

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Masks

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Why should people wear masks?



Who should wear what kind of mask?



When should masks be worn by the general public?



In areas where the virus is circulating, masks should be worn when you're in crowded settings, where you can't be at least 1 metre from others, and in rooms with poor or unknown ventilation. It's not always easy to determine the quality of ventilation, which depends on the rate of air change, recirculation and outdoor fresh air. So if you have any doubts, it's safer to simply wear a mask.

You should always clean your hands before and after using a mask, and before touching it while wearing it.

While wearing a mask, you should still keep physical distance from others as much as possible. Wearing a mask does not mean you can have close contact with people.

For indoor public settings such as busy shopping centres, religious buildings, restaurants, schools and public transport, you should wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distance from others.

If a visitor comes to your home who is not a member of the household, wear a mask if you cannot maintain a physical distance or the ventilation is poor.

When outside, wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distance from others. Some examples are busy markets, crowded streets and bus stops.

WHO TEAM Emergencies Preparedness, WHO Headquarters (HQ)

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